

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Institute of Standards and Technology****Announcement of Two Public Workshops Regarding Conformity Assessment Bodies for the EMC/Telecom Annexes of the US/EC Mutual Recognition Agreement and Telecommunication Certification Bodies for the Federal Communication Commission**

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) invites interested parties to attend two half-day workshops regarding conformity assessment bodies for the EMC/Telecom Annexes of the US/EC Mutual Recognition Agreement and Telecommunication Certification Bodies for the Federal Communication Commission. The first half day workshop will be for the development of requirements for a sub-program under the National Voluntary Conformity Assessment System Evaluation (NVCASE) Program, which will satisfy the product testing and quality system registration requirements of the EMC/Telecom Annexes of the United States/European Commission Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA).

The second half-day workshop will be devoted to the development of requirements for another sub-program for Telecommunication Certification Bodies (TCBs) under NVCASE program. This sub-program will satisfy the product testing and quality system registration requirements of the Federal Communication Commission.

NVCASE procedures require NIST to consult the public when establishing requirements to be applied in evaluations conducted within the scope of NVCASE programs. NIST, Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and European Commission (EC) personnel will participate in these workshops. There is no fee for the workshops; however, all attendees must register in advance with the EMC/Telecom/TCBs Workshop Coordinator no later than April 16, 1999.

DATES: The workshop for the EMC/Telcom Annexes will be held on April 28, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The workshop for the Telecommunication Certification Bodies will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on April 28, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Both workshops will be held at Department of Commerce

Auditorium, Herbert C. Hoover Building, located at 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For further information, you may telephone (301) 975-5120. You may register for one or both workshops by E-mail at scp@nist.gov or by fax at (301) 975-5414. You may also register by U.S. mail addressed to EMC/Telecom/TCBs Workshop Coordinator, NIST, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 2100, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with Title 15 Part 286.2(b) of the Code of Federal Regulations, NIST has established these programs pursuant to a written direction from another Federal Agency, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC). The FCC, in its GED Docket No. 98-68, designated NIST as the entity with primary responsibility for accrediting Telecommunications Certification Bodies under the NVCASE program. NIST may directly accredit TCBs or may, in consultation with the Commission, designate additional accreditation bodies who will, in turn, accredit TCBs. The Commission will identify for NIST, for example, the specific types of tests that need to be done for telecommunications equipment and the types of measurements that should be done to demonstrate compliance with their rules; the processes that TCBs will use to obtain current and correct interpretations of rules or test procedures; and, the consultative activities requiring TCB participation. The Commission will provide public notice of the methods that NST will use to accredit TCBs consistent with the qualification criteria adopted.

The NVCASE regulations found at 15 CFR Part 286 require NIST to consult the public when establishing requirements to be applied in evaluations conducted within the scope of NVCASE programs. These programs under NVCASE will allow U.S. bodies to satisfy the conformity assessment requirements of the EMC/Telecom annexes of the US/EC Mutual Recognition Agreement and will also allow TCBs to satisfy the conformity assessment requirements of FCC.

The NVCASE public workshops will follow the European Commission training workshop, which is to be held on April 27, 1999, for Conformity Assessment Bodies in which EC personnel will outline the requirements of the EMC/Telecom Annexes of the MRA. Both workshops will be held at the same location. The text of the US/

EC MRA for the EMC/Telecom sectoral annexes can be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.iep.doc.gov/mra/mra.htm>. NIST, FCC and EC personnel will participate in the EC training workshop.

Dated: March 15, 1999.

Raymond G. Kammer,
Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Technology Administration**

[Docket No. 990122027-9027-01]

RIN 0692-ZA02

Announcement of Availability of Funding for Competitions—Experimental Program To Stimulate Competitive Technology (EPSCoT)

AGENCY: Office of Technology Policy, Technology Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Technology Administration's Office of Technology Policy (OTP) announces the availability of funding for the following competition to be held in fiscal year 1999 under the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology (EPSCoT). The EPSCoT will support technology-based economic growth in eligible states by promoting partnerships between state and local governments, universities, community colleges, non-profit organizations and the private sector. This notice provides general information for the competition planned for fiscal year 1999.

DATES: Complete applications for the Fiscal Year 1999 EPSCoT grant program must be mailed or hand-carried to the address indicated below and *received* by the Technology Administration no later than 5:00 P.M. EST, May 14, 1999. Postmark date is not sufficient. Applications which have been provided to a delivery service will be accepted for review *if the applicant can document that the application was provided to the delivery service by May 13, 1999 with delivery to the address listed below guaranteed prior to the closing date and time*. Applications will not be accepted via facsimile machine transmission or electronic mail.

ADDRESSES: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Technology Administration, Attn: EPSCoT Director, Anita Balachandra, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, HCHB Room 4418, Washington, DC 20230.